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The President's Daily Brief

11 October 1972

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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LATE ITEM

Pierre Susini, France's delegate-general in Hanoi was reported buried in the wreckage of his mission early this morning when it was said to have been almost completely destroyed in an air raid. According to an initial report of a French Press Agency correspondent who was in the building at the time, Susini survived, and was seen talking to his rescuers. A TASS report from Hanoi indicated that Susini is presently in the hospital and that other personnel of the mission were injured.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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(Page 1)

On *Page 2*, we assess the Shah of Iran's current visit to Moscow.

Soviet

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(Page 3)

The Torrijos government may wait until next year to press its case on the canal treaty. *(Page 5)*

Soviet party boss Brezhnev appears to be playing down his pre-eminence in foreign policy. *(Page 6)*

North Vietnam

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IRAN-USSR

The Shah of Iran arrived in Moscow yesterday on a visit he did not particularly wish to make. The Soviets had been urging him to come, pressing him hard after President Sadat forced the USSR's military advisers out of Egypt. The Shah acquiesced, but only after he pointedly sent Empress Farah on a visit to China.

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The Soviets will try to reassure the Shah again, but will also no doubt let him know of their annoyance over some aspects of Iran's foreign policy, especially the warming of ties with China. Moscow has always been chary of Iran's close ties with the West, but in recent times has been more realistic in its approach to this relationship.

Just six weeks ago, the Soviets and Iranians signed a protocol for utilization of $125 million in credits to expand a steel mill and build a petrochemical plant. We do not believe, therefore, that a major economic pact is likely to result from this visit.

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USSR

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PANAMA

The inauguration today of Demetrio Lakas as constitutional president does not change the equation of power in Panama. General Torrijos remains the dominant political figure and clearly intends to remain so for the indefinite future.

Torrijos evidently intends to go slowly for the next few months in his conduct of relations with the US. He is, however, building toward a new campaign to extract more concessions on the canal issue. We expect that in 1973 the long-stalled canal treaty negotiations may well become the central focus of his attention.

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NOTES

USSR: Party boss Brezhnev appears to be trying to down-play his personal identification with the Soviet Union's foreign policy. The most recent issue of Kommunist (the party's ideological journal), for example, contains an authoritative exposition of Soviet foreign policy which is interesting for its comparison of Khrushchev's "reckless and willful" approach to foreign affairs to today's "scientific" and "collective" decision-making, a point rarely made in recent years. The article's treatment suggests a conscious effort to counter the impression that Brezhnev makes foreign policy single-handedly. The same tendency was evident in the remarks of a public party lecturer in Leningrad on 24 September. The lecturer, while talking of the considerable importance of Dr. Kissinger's most recent visit to Moscow and of Brezhnev's key role in the talks, also noted that Foreign Minister Gromyko, Ambassador Dobrynin, and "responsible central committee official" Aleksandrov were "always present" during the discussions.

North Vietnam: 25X1

India-USSR: 25X1

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